



EXPRESS

Reformed Youth Services

Winter 2020

A Newsletter to RYS Member Sponsors

Convention 2020 registration is open -- sign up now!

RYS is coming to Idaho! Lord willing, Reformed Youth Services will be holding its **2020 national youth convention** July 20-24 at Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, ID. Online registration is now open at reformedyouthservices.org. To qualify for the regular member church registration rate of \$415.00 (U.S.) registrants must be registered online by April 1. Sign-ups after that date until April 15 will cost \$455.00 (for supporting member churches), so make sure your group is informed and aware to avoid any late fees. Invoices will be emailed out shortly after the April early registration deadline. Please make sure your group contact leader (who needs to be attending convention) confirms all the participants listed on the invoice. This year's year's convention theme "Is Your Vision 20/20?" is based on Psalm 119:18.



Our keynote speakers will be Rev. Nick Smith, pastor of the URC of Nampa, ID, and Rev. Bob Van Manen, pastor of Little Farms OPC in Marne, MI. Ten workshops covering a variety of pertinent topics will also be offered. For the first time in six years, this year's primary day away option will be whitewater rafting! Your trip on the Payette River should be a perfect combination of splashing white water and relaxing floating. For those who prefer a calmer afternoon, we have a zoo/art museum combination for you to enjoy. Both options are covered in the cost of registration. Brochures were mailed to our member churches in January. Any questions may be directed to RYS Director Ed DeGraaf at reformedyouth96@gmail.com or (616) 667-0694.

A Faith & Fellowship Night will be held February 20 at Cornerstone URC in Hudsonville, MI. After viewing "The Case for Christ," we will enjoy pizza, games and fellowship. High school groups in the area are encouraged to email us at reformedyouth96@gmail.com by February 18 with your number of participants. Cost is \$5 person.

The **Midwest Middle School Retreat** is scheduled to take place May 1-2 at the Cranhill Ranch in Rodney, MI. Students in grades six through eight are invited to attend, along with their adult leaders. Rev. Vern Picknally, pastor of Bethel Reformed OPC in Fremont, MI will speak on the theme of "Do You Have a Defender?" Horse trail rides will be an available recreational option. Cost will be \$65.00 per person; register your participants via email by April 21.

The **LOGOS 2020 young adults conference** will be held August 5-8 at Lake Placid Christian Conference Center in Hartford City, IN. Keynote speaker Rev. Bradd Nymeyer of 1st URC of Chino, CA will explore the theme of "Finding Joy in the Ordinary." Rev. Bill Boekestein of Immanuel URC in Kalamazoo, MI, Rev. Breno Macedo of Messiah's IRC in Holland, MI, and Rev. Talman Wagenmaker of Dutton URC in Caledonia, MI will lead workshops. The LOGOS conference is open to adult singles and married couples ages 18-30. Registration will open in April, Lord willing. More information and brochures will be coming in the spring. Check the RYS website or email update for more information on all events.



Washington-area High School Retreat

Rev. James Ogle spoke on the theme of "To Whom Do You Belong?" at the annual fall retreat held at The Firs Retreat Center in Bellingham, WA. He encouraged the young people to begin "walking on the journey of a new life with Christ. Make this faith your faith!"



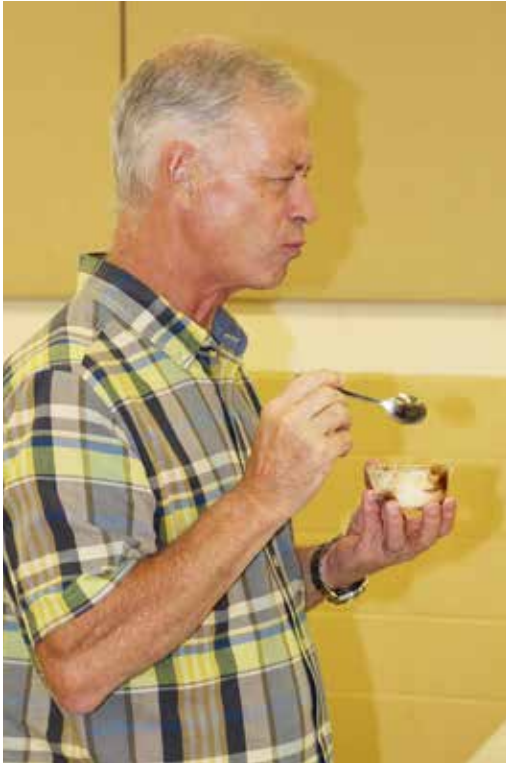
East Coast High School Retreat

Approximately 60 students from five churches attended the East Coast retreat held at Montlawn Retreat Center in Bushkill, PA. Westminster Seminary student David Garrett, who attended the inaugural RYS East Coast event, spoke on the theme “Do we need to calm down? Properly proclaiming the gospel to the World.”



Chicagoland-area Faith & Fellowship Night

Approximately 50 students and leaders from four area churches attended the Chicagoland-area Faith & Fellowship Night at Oak Glen URC in Lansing, IL. We viewed "Calvinist" and enjoyed pizza, games and fellowship. Rev. Ed Marcusse shared one of his favorite verses (II Corinthians 5:21) as he followed up the screening with a brief discussion highlighting the "Great Exchange" of the gospel.



LOGOS Winter Retreat

Around 60 post-high singles attended the LOGOS Winter Retreat held in January at Kettunen Retreat Center in Tustin, MI. Rev. Austin Reed used the book of James to illustrate his theme of "Following the Good Path." He stated "Because of Christ's promises to you of the crown of life, you are called to see your trials as a blessing and not a curse... He is standing by your side."





Post-high Faith & Fellowship

More than 40 post-high singles from eight churches in the Grand Rapids area attended our first-ever post-high Faith & Fellowship Night at Cornerstone URC in Hudsonville, MI.



California High School Retreat

Almost 90 students and leaders attended our annual retreat at Hartland Christian Retreat Center in Badger, CA. Rev. Bill Godfrey of Christ Reformed Church in Santee spoke on the topic of "Anxiety and Our Caring Father." Attendees also enjoyed the snowy weather, zipline and other recreation on the scenic campus.



Upcoming Events, D.V.....to pray and plan for!

- ◆ **February 20--** High school-age Faith & Fellowship Night, Cornerstone URC, Hudsonville, MI.
- ◆ **April 1--** Online registration deadline for regular registration rate for the 2020 RYS convention.
- ◆ **May 1-2--** Midwest Middle School retreat at Cranhill Ranch, Rodney, MI.
- ◆ **July 20-24--** RYS National Youth Convention at Northwest Nazarene University, Nampa, ID.
- ◆ **August 5-8--** LOGOS 2020 Young Adults Conference, Lake Placid Chr. Conf. Ctr., Hartford City, IN.

Note: RYS events conclude on 12 midnight Saturday evening. Sunday worship is under the authority of a local member church consistory and led by an ordained pastor or seminarian.

GR-area high school all-nighter, Grandville, MI



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Reformed Youth Services is a ministry of Cornerstone United Reformed Church